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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-02 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-12 EB-08 AID-05 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /106 W
----------007854 260834Z /13
R 251505Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5082
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0133

DEPT REPEAT TO AFRICAN POSTS AS DESIRED

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PERP, NG, LY
SUBJECT: QADHAFI'S VISIT TO NIGER

REF: NIAMEY 341

1. WE WOULD MAKE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON NIAMEY EXCELLENT REPORT OF QADHAFI VISIT.

2. ON TIMING, WE SUSPECT QADHAFI TAKING ADVANTAGE OF STALE-MATE IN EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TALKS AND APPARENT LACK OF FORWARD MOVEMENT ON REJECTIONIST FRONT TO REFURBISH HIS AFRICAN CREDENTIALS. TURNING AWAY FROM MIDDLE EAST WHEN FRUSTRATED AND FOCUSING ATTENTION ELSEWHERE IS TACTIC QADHAFI HAS EMPLOYED ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS.

3. NEED TO GIVE IMPRESSION OF LIBYAN CONCERN FOR AFRICANS IMPORTANT IN VIEW OF OAU MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULED
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FOR TRIPOLI IN FEBRUARY. QADHAFI, OR PERHAPS HIS ADVISORS, HAVE NO DOUBT BECOME AWARE OF HIGH DEGREE OF RESENTMENT BY AFRICAN STATES (AS FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED BY REPRESENTATIVES IN TRIPOLI) TOWARD LIBYA'S PATRONIZING AND HIGHHANDED MANNER OF DEALING WITH THEM. SOME LOCAL EXAMPLES INCLUDE VIRTUALLY ORDERING AFRICAN REPRESENTATIVES IN TRIPOLI TO TAKE ARABIC TRAINING

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COURSE SPONSORED BY FOREIGN OFFICE AND FREQUENT BLUNT
EXHORTATIONS BY AFRICAN DIRECTORATE IN FOREIGN OFFICE
FOR SUPPORT OF LIBYAN POLICIES.

4. AS WE SEE IT, LIBYA'S POLICY TOWARD COUNTRIES TO
SOUTH CONTINUES TO BE BASED ON COMBINATION OF QADHAFI'S
PERSONAL AMBITION FOR LARGE ROLE ON CONTINENT AND
TRADITIONAL LIBYAN INTEREST IN SPREADING ISLAM SOUTHWARD.
SERIES OF UNFULFILLED LIBYAN PROMISES TO MANY AFRICAN
STATES, AS WELL AS CONDESCENDING TREATMENT OF AFRICAN
LEADERS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES, ARE MAJOR IMPEDIMENTS
TO SMOOTH RELATIONS BETWEEN LIBYA AND ITS SOUTHERN
NEIGHBORS. REFTEL SUGGESTS QADHAFI VISIT HAS DONE LITTLE
TO IMPROVE SITUATION.
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